



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment



EPA Five Year Review of the Vasquez Boulevard and I-70 Superfund Site

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) are conducting a five-year review of the remedial actions performed at Operable Unit 1 (OU1) of the Vasquez Boulevard and I-70 (VB/I-70) Superfund Site. The five-year review is required because heavy metals remain at OU1 above levels that allow for unrestricted use and unlimited exposure.

The VB/I-70 Superfund Site is located in northeast Denver, Colorado. The 4.5-square mile area of OU1 includes all or part of five neighborhoods – Cole, Clayton, Swansea/Elyria, southwest Globeville and northern Curtis Park. OU1 is currently in residential, commercial and industrial use. There are approximately 4,500 residential properties within OU1, most of which are single-family homes.

From the early 1870s until the early 1900s, two smelting plants operated at the Site refining gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc. Smelter operations deposited heavy metals in area soils, contaminating OU1 soils. In September 2003, EPA selected a remedy to address contaminated residential soils within OU1 and updated it in September 2014. The remedy included removal and off-site disposal of contaminated residential soils, a soil-sampling program, implementation of a community health program and institutional controls. EPA completed the remedy in 2017 and has minimized risk to human health and the environment. EPA is currently scheduled to delete OU1 from the National Priorities List (NPL) in 2019.

This will be the third five-year review for the VB/I-70 Superfund Site. The five-year review is scheduled to be complete by summer 2019. If you would like to provide input or get more information about this five-year review, please contact one of the following representatives:

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